monsoon, *i.e.* July to September because of suppressed demand. The production picks up as a result of improved demand after monsoons as shown in the table given below:

(In Million Tonnes)

Month	Production				
	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
April-June	18.97	19.93	24.46	25.47	26.36
July-Sept	16.87	17.75	20.93	21.56	7.36
Oct-Dec	19.33	20.18	22.53	22.62	(July)
Jan-March	21.57	23.81	26.29	25.87	
TOTAL:	76.74	81.67	94.21	93.52	—

The normal seasonal fluctuations in the production of cement shown above do not suggest cartelisation of the industry.

The price of cement is not uniform throughout the country and varies from State to State depending upon local taxes and distance from the production centres.

Irregularities in Tobacco Board

3080. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities in Tabbacco Board have been reported by the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers Association; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to get the matter probed by the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No irregularities have been reported in the Tobacco Board by the Andhra Pradesh Tobacco Growers' Association. However, the

Virginia Tobacco Growers' Association, Guntur, has alleged that certain irregularities took place during the Karnataka auctions of 2000. Enquiries conducted by the Tobacco Board have not revealed any evidence of irregularities by Board officials.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of flowers

†3081. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme prepared by Government for floral-trade in the country;

(b) the quantity of flowers exported to various countries during the year 2000-2001 till July, 2001 with country-wise details;

(c) the total foreign exchange earned through the export of these flowers; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to promote the export of flowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The marketing of agro products including flowers is *inter alia,* facilitated through regulated agricultural produce marketing committees, cooperative marketing committees, etc. Government is further encouraging establishment of Flower Auction Centres in potential flower growing States which is expected to assist in promoting the floriculture trade in the country and abroad. Government has recently approved a proposal for financial assistance to the Government of Karnataka for setting up a Flower Auction Centre in Bangalore.

(b) and (c) The quantity of flowers exported is not reflected in a uniform unit. The total foreign exchange earned from export of flowers including dried flowers during the year 2000-2001 and till May 2001 for which data is available is as follows:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.